GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1604
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Packaged Water
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of unlicensed companies producing and selling poor quality packaged drinking water/mineral water are operating in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the complaints received during each of the last three years along with the action taken against the defaulters; and
(c) the steps taken to standardise the production and ensure supply of good quality packaged drinking water in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b) : Yes Madam. All Food Business Operators engaged in the production of mineral water/packaged drinking water have to follow the standards of mineral water and packaged drinking water as prescribed under Regulation 2.10.7 and 2.10.8 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Licenses and Registration under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 are issued to units engaged in the production of Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water as per the provisions and conditions prescribed in Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

As per Regulation 2.3.14 (17) & 2.3.14 (18) of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on sales) Regulations, 2011 " No person shall manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale packaged drinking water and mineral water except under the Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark."

As per the information available from State/UT Governments, the details of samples of Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water collected, tested, found no conforming (including unlicensed) and action taken during the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 is enclosed at Annexure-I & II. Separate data is not available with regard to Packaged Drinking Water/Mineral Water for the year 2012-13.

(c) : The implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations thereunder including standards for packaged drinking water primarily rests with State/UT Governments.

Surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products is being done by the Officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check compliance of the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the rules and regulations made thereunder. In cases where the food samples are found to be non-conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS Act, 2006.
In addition, BIS also checks conformity of Indian Standard for packaged drinking water and packaged natural mineral water for manufacturer holding BIS license.
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